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AUG 16 2004

In re Application of	:	
Cole et al.	:	OFFICE OF PETITIONS
Application No. 10/058,632	:	
Filed: January 28, 2002	:	ON PETITION
Attorney Docket No. 659/1211	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3), filed April 5, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 for the benefit of prior-filed nonprovisional application no. 09/564,939, filed May 4, 2000, set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT**.

A petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000.

Along with the instant petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3), petitioner has submitted an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title to include a reference to the above-noted prior-filed application.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on January 28, 2002, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. While a reference to the prior-filed application was not included in the ADS or in the first sentence of the specification following the title, reference nevertheless was made in the transmittal letter filed with the above-identified application.

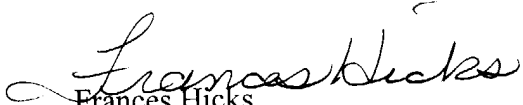
The current procedure where a claim for priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) is not included in the first sentence of the specification or in the ADS but does appear either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii). However, on the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the prior-filed application(s) set forth in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3).¹ In the instant case, the Office noted the claim for priority of the prior-filed applications in the transmittal letter filed with the application, as shown by their inclusion on the filing receipt.

¹ Note MPEP 201.11 (V), page 200-75 (Rev. 1. Feb. 2004 and 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.

In view of the above, the \$1330.00 petition fee submitted is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account as authorized.

Any questions concerning this decision on petition may be directed to Paralegal Liana Chase at (703) 306-0482. Any telephone inquiries after approximately **September 24, 2004** should be directed to (571) 272-3282. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to the Examiner of Technology Center AU 1616 for appropriate action on the amendment filed April 5, 2004, including consideration of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) for benefit of the prior-filed applications.


Frances Hicks
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Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy